

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making powders from a slurry, the method comprising the steps of:

- (i) introducing the slurry into a drop forming apparatus;
- (ii) ejecting the slurry from a discharge opening to form a jet such that the jet hits an inwardly and downwardly oriented first oblique rotating surface;
- (iii) rotating the first surface at a speed such that the jet is forced upwards over the first surface and over another connected horizontal surface by centrifugal forces;
- (iv) dividing and directing the jet towards an outwardly and downwardly oriented second oblique rotating surface;
- (v) rotating the second surface such that the slurry in the jet is accelerated to the speed of rotation of the second surface;
- (vi) directing the jet onto an outwardly oriented third oblique rotating surface, from which drops of the slurry detach themselves when centrifugal forces on the third surface exceeds adhesive forces between the drops and the third surface.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first surface as well as the horizontal surface are arranged as integrated parts of one and the same disk, and the surface is a surface of an axially mounted disk shaped section on top of the first disk.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the first surface has an inclination angle of 45-55° relative to the horizontal plane.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the second surface has an inclination angle of 65-75° relative to the horizontal plane.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the third surface has an inclination angle of < 10° relative to the horizontal plane.

6. An apparatus for forming drops from a slurry, the apparatus comprising:

a plurality of rotatable disk units, the disk units comprising a number of disks arranged axially on top on each other, the disks have a cross-section comprising a radially inner section with a substantially U-shaped recess constructed to receive a raised L-shaped section of an adjacent disk with sufficient play therebetween to allow radial ejection of a jet of the slurry; and

a distributor for uniformly distributing the slurry onto the plurality of disk units.

7. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the L-shaped section of each disk is shaped such that an oblique, upright leg of the L-shape includes an

oblique downward and inwardly directed surface adapted to receive the jet of slurry, and a contiguous horizontal transition surface connected thereto.

8. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the essentially U-shaped recess includes a radial, outer obliquely downward and outwardly directed second surface adapted to receive the jet of liquid.

9. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the first surface has an angle of inclination of  $45\text{-}55^\circ$  relative to the horizontal plane.

10. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the second surface has an angle of inclination of  $65\text{-}75^\circ$  relative to the horizontal plane.

11. The apparatus according to claim 6, wherein a third surface is arranged and integrated with the second surface whereby an angle of inclination of third contact surface is  $< 10^\circ$  relative to the horizontal plane.

12. A powder of agglomerates of cemented carbide, cermets, ceramics or similar materials with abrasive wear resistance made according to claim 1.

13. The powder of claim 12, wherein the agglomerates have a distribution of sizes with a ratio  $d_{97}/d_{03} < 4$  wherein

d97 = the grain size below which 97% of the agglomerates is found and  
d03 = the grain size below which 3 % of the agglomerates is found.

14. Powder agglomerates of cemented carbide, cermets, ceramics or similar materials with abrasive wear resistance wherein the agglomerates have a distribution of size, prior to sieving, such that a ratio of  $d97/d03 < 4$  wherein

d97 = the grain size below which 97 % of the agglomerates is found and

d03 = the grain size below which 3 % of the agglomerates is found.